RURAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH WESTMORLAND

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Printers, 28, Highgate, Kendal.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of South Westmorland.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District during the year 1944. The Report follows the lines of those presented during the past few years.

I am indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in carrying out Immunisation against Diphtheria and tend to them my thanks.

Should you desire any further particulars I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,
Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. BARON COCKILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

9th July, 1945.

STAFF.

Mr. H. Barlow, F.S.I.A. has been appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1944.

Area (acres)	151,007
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1944	17,220

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ..	255	147	108	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.9.
Illegitimate..	19	9	10	

Birth Rate, England & Wales:—				17.6
Still Births ..	5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 17.9.
Deaths ..	210	97	113	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.2.
Death Rate, England and Wales				11.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	1	3.6
Total	1	3.6

Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales	1.93
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	36
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	46
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The largest number of deaths from any one cause were:—

Heart Disease	71
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	35
Cancer	23

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Quarterly bacteriological examinations of the public water supplies have been made and the results have been generally satisfactory.

Lupton Reservoir. The rainfall for the year was 56.7 inches and above average. The supply from the Reservoir has been abundant.

Chlorination of the Lupton Water Supply for the year has been more effective and the Reports on the Bacteriological Examinations of the supply have in every test been satisfactory.

Burton, Heron Syke. A new main has been laid to these cottages and a satisfactory water supply provided.

Summerlands, Endmoor. The supply to the Merchant Navy Seamen's Welfare Centre and properties adjoining has been satisfactorily provided for by extending a new water main for the area.

Stainton. Work is now in progress for providing a water supply to Stainton Village.

Hutton Roof. Complaints of the inadequate water supply to Hutton Roof continue. Improvement of supply is included in the Post-War Water Supply Schemes.

Six houses were connected to the mains of the Manchester Corporation Thirlmere Supply.

Three samples of water were obtained from private supplies and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, two of which were reported as being unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions have been carried out at the Council's Sewage Works during the year. Extensions of the sewers at Holme and Preston Richard were carried out to allow the connection thereto of the new agricultural workers' houses.

Housing.

No action in connection with slum clearance has been possible during the year and housing activity has been restricted to the carrying out of essential repairs.

Thirty-five houses have been rendered fit as a result of informal action, and licences granted for the temporary occupations of six houses which are subject to demolition orders.

Twelve new houses for agricultural workers were erected during the year, situate in the following parishes:—

Beetham 2, Holme 4, Levens 4, and Preston Richard 2.

Progress has been made on Post-War Housing Schemes for 300 houses in the first five years. In most Parishes negotiation for purchase of sites is proceeding.

No houses were found infested with bed bugs.

Public Cleansing.

No changes have taken place in the public cleansing arrangements during the year.

Salvaged articles were disposed of to the value of £520. 15s. 5d.

A successful Book Drive was held early in the year when 98,328 books were collected; of this number 12,180 were sent to H.M. Forces, 208 to the local hospital, 74 to libraries and the remainder for salvage.

Schools.

No action was found to be necessary in connection with any of the schools inspected during the year although the sanitary accommodation at a number of them requires much to be desired.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the District open to the general public.

Evacuation.

The number of evacuees officially billeted in the district at the end of the year totalled 470.

Hostels.

Hostels for the accommodation of problem and difficult children are provided at:—

Hincaster—For Senior boys ages 8-14 years.

Enyeat—For Senior girls and Junior Boys and Girls.

The Women's Land Army has a hostel at Milnthorpe.

There is a Hostel for expectant evacuee mothers at Trerose, Arnside, and a Maternity Home at Brettargh Holt under the Convent of the Sacred Heart.

Camping Sites.

Inspections have been made of the 10 licensed camping sites.

New regulations regarding the control of such sites were approved by the Council on the 19th August, 1944.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Milk and Dairies Administration. This subject has received very considerable attention during the year. Detailed inspections have been made of the farms in the parishes of Preston Patrick, Whinfell, Whitwell and Selside, Preston Richard, Kirkby Lonsdale, Casterton, Patton, Milnthorpe and Kentmere.

In addition to the above, inspections have been made of approximately 70 farms at the request of the War Agricultural Committee.

Notices have been served where conditions were found to be unsatisfactory and improvements have been carried out at 24 farms as a result of such notices.

240 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for examination for Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests and 42 for the presence of Tubercle bacilli, the results of which were as follows:—

Satisfactory	86
,, for Methylene Blue Test only	27
,, for B. Coli test only	24
Unsatisfactory	103

Tubercle Bacilli were found in 1 sample.

Meat.

The Kendal Abattoir serves the whole of the area and assistance in meat inspection is given there on one day per week.

A certain amount of food was found to be unfit for human consumption during the year and destroyed—chiefly tinned products.

ADULTERATION, ETC., AND CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a considerable increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever though of the 56 cases reported, no less than 48 occurred in one school

so that the remainder of the Area was fairly free; there were 6 cases of Diphtheria, 3 of which occurred in neighbouring houses and arose from one source; none of these cases arose in persons who had been immunised. Other notifications were Pneumonia 12, 1 being a military case, Erysipelas 5, Puerperal Pyrexia 3, Acute Poliomyelitis 2, of which 1 died, and one each of Enteric Fever, Opthalmia Neonatorum and Malaria, the latter having been contracted abroad. Measles was epidemic, 237 cases being notified; there was a certain amount of Whooping Cough, 36 cases in all.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the above school began on 22nd January and continued throughout February to 13th March, 38 cases in all during this term. Before admission to school at the commencement of the next term, all the girls and staff were swabbed and the school premises were thoroughly disinfected and redecorated; 8 further cases occurred during this term, 7 in June. In view of this continuation, a visit from a Ministry of Health's Medical Inspector was requested and after visitation he advised the services of a Pathologist; this was done and swabs were taken from all inmates of the school and in spite of the precautionary swabs which had been taken at the commencement of term no less than 31 swabs were found to yield growths of germs similar to those found in Scarlet Fever; further investigations reduced the possibles to 18 and of these 5 were found to be of one type known as "Richards." Unfortunately, further swabs submitted for typing never reached their destination and so a positive conclusion could not be reached. The fact that these 5 typed swabs had been taken from girls situated in 5 different dormitories and 3 classes suggests that the infection has not been of one type and had been spread from case to case. In view of the information obtained from hospital administration it was advised that the oiling of floors should be done so as to reduce the dispersal of dust in the atmosphere; this has been carried out. In the last term of the year there were only 2 cases, 1 each in October and December.

Artificial Immunization against Diphtheria has been continued, 189 children under 5 years of age and 311 of school age have been immunized.

The School Medical Officer states that a fairly high standard of nutrition has been maintained, a high standard of cleanliness exists and that Scabies though not yet stamped out is less prevalent.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

Disease.	Total.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever	56	—	—	—	—	1	3	22	29	1	—	—	—	53	—
Diphtheria	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	6	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	3	5	—	1	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	237	3	16	18	17	23	122	27	4	4	2	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	36	2	4	2	6	7	12	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ..	360	6	20	20	24	33	139	54	33	10	11	9	1	65	1

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	3	4	1	—	1	1	—	—
25	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	8	7	3	2	3	2	—	—

The incidence of this Disease was about the same as in the previous year. There were 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and of these 6 had acquired infection before coming to reside in the Area and one of these died; of the others 4 died during the course of the year.

Of the Non-Pulmonary cases there was one each of Knee Joint and Skin and 3 of Cervical Glands.